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SOURCE Israelitisches Wochenblatt, No 25, 1949

ZIONISTS JAILED FOR EMIGRATION ACTIVITIES;
RABBIS DENY RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION

The trial of the leaders of various Hungarian Zionist groups arrested a month ago ended with the ten defendants being sentenced from 6 months to 3 years in prison and deprived of their civil privileges and rights for a period of 5 years. They were accused of having pursued the activities of their organizations and particularly of having furthered illegal emigration despite their "voluntary dissolution."

The Hungarian press did not comment on the matter which involved the flight of approximately 2,000 persons who reached Vienna a few weeks ago, by way of Bratislava. The Hungarian government demands a "release fee" for each emigrant. The only emigrations authorized are those of persons having children or parents in Palestine.

* * *

Referring to reports in the US press that religious education had been stopped in Hungary, Hungary's Jewish communities, the Association of Rabbis, and the Hungarian section of the Jewish World Congress issued a signed statement explaining that the only communities dissolved were those which had already been liquidated by the Nazis. Jewish schools continue to teach and the Jews of Hungary are allowed to practice their religion without interference. The Jewish World Congress is free to carry on its activities and there is no religious persecution of any kind. It is not true that community officials are appointed by the Communists; on the contrary, the system of free and autonomous elections is being continued.

Such misinformation, the statement concluded, was not apt to benefit the Jews in Eastern Europe.

* * *

Dr. E. Brody, Member of Parliament, was appointed Advisor on Jewish Affairs at the Ministry of Education.

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